

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of authenticating a user attempting to access a portable computing device comprising:

causing a sequence of images to be shown on a display, wherein each image is distinguished on the display on the basis of time;

accepting an input selection from the user indicating that a currently distinguished image of the sequence of images corresponds to a portion of the user's password, the user's password being known by the portable computing device;

correlating the input selection to the currently distinguished image; and

granting access to the portable computing device when the currently distinguished image corresponds to the portion of the user's password and the input selection is synchronized with the currently distinguished image.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the password comprises a plurality of portions, and further comprising repeating the causing, accepting and correlating for each of the plurality of password portions, and allowing access to the portable computing device when all input selections are synchronized with distinguished images that correspond to the password.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein causing the sequence of images to be shown on a display comprises sending the sequence of images over a wireless link to a computing system including the display.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising setting the ~~user~~user's password in the portable computing device prior to causing the sequence of images to be shown on the display.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each image of the sequence of images comprises a plurality of symbols, the symbols comprising at least one of alphanumeric

characters, playing card values, sports team logos, company logos, cartoon characters, and photographs, and each password portion comprises at least one ~~symbol~~ of the symbols.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising causing the display of visual feedback to the user when a portion of the user's password is correctly selected.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the display is part of a computing system untrusted by the user.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising establishing an authenticated connection from the portable computing device to the un-trusted computing system including the display prior to causing the sequence of images to be shown on the display.

9. (Previously Presented) An article comprising:

a storage medium having a plurality of machine readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, the instructions provide for authenticating a user attempting to access a portable computing device by

causing a sequence of images to be shown on a display, wherein each image is distinguished on the display on the basis of time;

accepting an input selection from the user indicating that a currently distinguished image of the sequence of images corresponds to a portion of the user's password, the user's password being known by the portable computing device;

correlating the input selection to the currently distinguished image; and

granting access to the portable computing device when the currently distinguished image corresponds to the portion of the user's password and the input selection is synchronized with the currently distinguished image.

10. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 9, wherein the password comprises a plurality of portions, and further comprising instructions for repeating the causing, accepting and correlating for each of the plurality of password portions, and instructions for allowing access to

the portable computing device when all input selections are synchronized with distinguished images that correspond to the password.

11. (Original) The article of claim 9, wherein instructions for causing the sequence of images to be shown on a display comprises instructions for sending the sequence of images over a wireless link to a computing system including the display.

12. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 9, further comprising instructions for setting the ~~user~~-user's password in the portable computing device prior to causing the sequence of images to be shown on the display.

13. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 9, wherein each image of the sequence of images comprises a plurality of symbols, the symbols comprising at least one of alphanumeric characters, playing card values, sports team logos, company logos, cartoon characters, and photographs, and each password portion comprises at least one ~~symbol~~of the symbols.

14. (Original) The article of claim 9, further comprising instructions for causing the display of visual feedback to the user when a portion of the user's password is correctly selected.

15. (Original) The article of claim 9, further comprising instructions for establishing an authenticated connection from the portable computing device to an un-trusted computing system including the display prior to causing the sequence of images to be shown on the display.

16. (Currently Amended) A portable computing device comprising:
a memory to store instructions and data;
a processor to execute the instructions obtained from the memory to cause a sequence of images to be shown on a display of an un-trusted computing system, wherein each image is distinguished on the display on the basis of time, to accept an input selection from a user indicating that a currently distinguished image of the sequence of images corresponds to a portion of the user's password, the user's password being known by the portable computing device, to correlate the input selection to the currently distinguished image, and to grant access to

the portable computing device when the currently distinguished image corresponds to the portion of the user's password and the input selection is synchronized with the currently distinguished image.

17. (Original) The portable computing device of claim 16, wherein the portable computing device comprises a wireless communications module for sending the sequence of images to be shown on the display over a wireless link to the un-trusted computing system.

18. (Currently Amended) The portable computing device of claim 16, wherein each image of the sequence of images comprises a plurality of symbols, the symbols comprising at least one of alphanumeric characters, playing card values, sports team logos, company logos, cartoon characters, and photographs, and each password portion comprises at least one ~~symbol~~of the symbols.

19. (Original) The portable computing device of claim 16, wherein the memory further comprises instructions to establish an authenticated connection from the portable computing device to the un-trusted computing system prior to causing the sequence of images to be shown on the display.

20. (Original) The portable computing device of claim 16, further comprising a button for entering the input selection by the user, the button indicating one of activation and non-activation.

21. (Original) The portable computing device of claim 16, wherein the memory stores the user's password and the sequence of images.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
causing the sequence of images to be shown on the display concurrently and asynchronously with at least one other sequence of other images, without causing to show on the display that the at least one other sequence is to be disregarded in user authentication.

23. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 9, further comprising instructions for causing the sequence of images to be shown on the display concurrently and asynchronously with at least one other sequence of other images, without causing to show on the display that the at least one other sequence is to be disregarded in user authentication.

24. (Currently Amended) The portable computing device of claim 16, wherein the processor ~~to execute~~executes the instructions obtained from the memory to further cause the sequence of images to be shown on the display concurrently and asynchronously with at least one other sequence of other images, without causing to show on the display that the at least one other sequence is to be disregarded in user authentication.